

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 15, 2001

LB 851

Their concerns were conveyed to us. We accommodated every thing we could while retaining an absolute zero deviation, something we think is strategically important in terms of litigation and what will and will not lie in terms of litigation. The line follows the Papillion city limits. It keeps precincts together. The election commissioners begged us to keep municipalities and precincts together. The issues that relate to whether or not the areas are contiguous are created by following the city limits of Papillion, which the election commissioners and the redistricting experts encouraged us to do. We are working to address those issues but it will require taking lightly populated areas out of those precincts which we think we can do between now and Select File. That will make election administration more difficult, but since the city of Papillion has chosen an odd-shaped line for its city limits, it has made the job of Sarpy County election officials more difficult. We are sorry for that but they chose the lines. The numbers govern. Some community of interest must be divided. If you do not divide Bellevue or Papillion-LaVista School Districts, and remember only a very small percentage of those districts is divided out, less than 5 percent, then you must separate out those people who consider themselves Omahans in the Chalco area who attend Millard Schools, 6,500 of them. Please also note Omaha cannot annex across county lines, but Papillion and Bellevue can annex within Sarpy County. We've excluded that which of today is not annexed by Papillion or Bellevue, apparently their election not to do so in order to follow municipal lines which where annexation could have been done but has not been. We included that which is a part of Omaha, is a part of Omaha, and cannot be annexed. Chalco is a community of interest. It's 6,500 residents whose children attend the Millard Public Schools. Chalco residents work, shop, and worship with their Omaha neighbors north of Harrison Street. Notice how we can all always make those arguments. Something has to give and the line adopted yesterday accommodates as many interests as possible. Senator Thompson can get 100 percent...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...of what she wants but only at the expense of some other community of interest. She